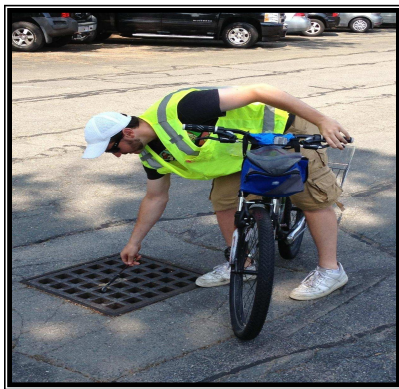


## Catch Basin Treatments to Control Mosquitoes.

Over the next two weeks, the Town of Lexington Office of Community Development, [Health Division](#) and the [East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project](#) will treat over four thousand catch basins containing standing water in order to help reduce the mosquito population. This treatment method is intended to prevent the emergence of Culex mosquitoes that develop in water-holding containers. Culex mosquitoes are the primary vectors of West Nile Virus (WNV).

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control team consists of five trained and licensed pest control technicians that travel on the streets by bicycle. Besides being environmentally responsible and economically sound, the bicycles are practical for finding and treating the catch basins located along the roadways.



Treatment consists of placing a water-soluble larvicide containing *Bacillus sphaericus* into the catch basin by hand. One of the benefits of this method is that there is no risk of missing its target or applying the larvicide in an unauthorized area. Once the product dissolves, the *Bacillus sphaericus* will prevent mosquito larva from developing into biting adults.

A mosquito control technician then marks the location with white paint on the cover of the catch basin to indicate that it has been treated.

The town is divided into five sections and each licensed technician is assigned a treatment route to ensure that proper catchbasin treatment is completed. Typically, catch basins that are chronically damp or wet will be treated. It is not necessary to treat catch basins that are dry or without standing water.



Important role for people in monitoring for WNV and protecting themselves and their loved ones.

You can help by mosquito proofing your home.

- **Drain standing water from containers around your home** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Naturally occurring water bodies are more likely to attract and contain predators that feed on mosquito larvae, thus reducing the population.
  - Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
  - Check rain gutters and drains.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

You may also avoid mosquito bites by following these simple steps.

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help reduce mosquito bites** - Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors** - Use a repellent with one of the following ingredients according to the instructions on the product label:
  - DEET [N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide] - DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children;
  - Picaridin (KBR 3023);
  - IR3535;
  - Oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age; or
  - Permethrin - Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and *should not be applied to skin*.

Seminars sponsored by the Lexington Board of Health.

To learn more about diseases carried by mosquitoes and how to prevent a bite, please consider attending one of these sessions:

Date	Location
Tuesday, July 30 2 – 3 PM	Cary Library, Lower Level, Learning Center 1874 Massachusetts Ave
Tuesday, August 6 11 AM – 12 PM	Greeley Village Tewksbury and Shirley Streets (off of Bedford Street)
Thursday, August 8 11 AM – 12 PM	Vynebrooke Village 1 Vynebrooke Village
Tuesday, August 20 10:30 – 11:30 PM	Katahdin Woods Apartments Community Room 1 Katahdin Drive
Thursday, September 26 10 – 11 AM	Senior Center 1605 Massachusetts Ave

For more information please contact the Office of Community Development, Health Division, Gerard Cody, Health Director at 781-862-0500 x 237.